

A Career in School Nursing

March 2011

School Nursing

The Primary and Secondary School Nursing Program operates across primary and secondary schools. The Primary School Nursing Program offers a universal screening service to children in their first year of primary school in Government, Catholic and Independent schools and in years one to six where a parent, teacher or nurse identifies a concern. Assessment and support is also provided to all children in English Language Centres.

Secondary school nurses work as a member of the student wellbeing team in two schools. Nurses support the health and wellbeing needs of vulnerable young people through the delivery of health programs and individual health counselling.

Primary and secondary school nurses are employed by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development through regional offices. School nurse vacancies appear in the print media, usually *The Age*, as well as the Victorian Government Public Service website:

www.careers@vic.gov.au

What qualifications do I need to work as a Primary School Nurse?

It is a mandatory requirement to have a current registration with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA - www.ahpra.gov.au) as a Registered Nurse (Division 1). Relevant postgraduate qualifications and/or experience in child health, primary health care, community health, public health, or health promotion is highly desirable. Primary school nurses work autonomously with minimal supervision. Therefore, well developed communication and problem solving skills are core capabilities.

What qualifications do I need to work as a Secondary School Nurse?

It is mandatory to be registered with the AHPRA as a Registered Nurse (Division 1). It is highly desirable to

have post graduate qualification and/or experience in adolescent health, primary health care, community health, mental health, public health, or health promotion.

As secondary school nurses are based in schools, they work autonomously with minimal supervision and need to have a sound understanding of school culture, the ability to work in partnership with non-health professionals and apply problem-solving skills within a diverse and complex environment.

How can I find out more about a career in school nursing?

Regional Nurse Managers are responsible for the line management and recruitment of Primary and Secondary School Nurses. For more information visit our website:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/healthwellbeing/health/schoolnursing/default.htm>

You could also contact the Regional School Nurse Managers, Department of Education and Early Childhood on the following numbers:

Barwon South West	(03) 5215 5436
Gippsland	(03) 5144 9143
Grampians	(03) 5337 8607
Hume	(03) 5761 2119
Loddon Mallee	(03) 5440 3324
Eastern	(03) 9265 2506
	(03) 9265 2482
Southern	(03) 9096 9563
Northern	(03) 9304 0785
	(03) 9304 0755
Western	(03) 9275 7258
	(03) 9275 7178

